

## Ekushey book fair ends

Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a traditional book fair commemorating the language martyrs, concluded at the Bangla Academy premises on Saturday, drawing huge visitors on the last days, reports APB.

Chief Adviser to the last caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman, the chief guest at the concluding ceremony, called for introducing Bengali in every sphere of national life.

The fair, jointly organised by Bangla Academy and Pustak Publishers and Sellers Association, began on February 7.

This year, the fair got a clean and serene atmosphere at the venue as there were no other stalls but that of books and security of the visitors was ensured by heavy police guards.

Book sellers association sources said Tk. 1.25 lakh on an average came from everyday sales, with the highest amount of Tk. 2.20 lakh reported on February 21, the historic Language Martyrs Day.

The Academy published 35 new books on the occasion of Ekushey book fair this time while another 139 were also published by the young writers project of Bangla Academy.

Three book stalls—Agani Publications, Pearl Publications and Sandhani Publications — were given prize

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## Book fair

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by Bangla Academy for their nice decoration.

Justice Habibur Rahman handed over the trophy to the publishers at the concluding function on Saturday evening. The function was also addressed by Director General of the Academy Syed Anwar Hossain while poet Shamsur Rahman presided.

Only 34 of the 186 participating organisations had their own publications. A total of 297 stalls were installed at the fair this year.